

**The Proper Name of the Western Horned Owl.**<sup>1</sup>—In a paper in 'The Auk' for April, 1896 (p. 153), Mr. Stone proposed the name *occidentalis* in place of *subarcticus* Hoy, the latter being a synonym of *arcticus* Swain., selecting a type specimen from Mitchell Co., Iowa. This specimen, however, proved not to belong to the form he intended to name (see Auk, Jan., 1897, p. 134), and he therefore now renames it *pallescens* (*Bubo virginianus pallescens*), selecting as type an example from near San Antonio, Texas.

With this change the Horned Owls would stand in the A. O. U. Check-List as follows:

- 375. *Bubo virginianus* (Gmel.). Great Horned Owl.
- 375 a. *Bubo virginianus pallescens* Stone. Western Horned Owl.
- 375 b. *Bubo virginianus arcticus* (Swains.). Arctic Horned Owl.
- 375 c. *Bubo virginianus saturatus* Ridgw. Dusky Horned Owl.
- 375 d. *Bubo virginianus pacificus* Cass. Pacific Horned Owl.—J. A. A

**'Nature's Diary.'**<sup>2</sup>—Under this title Mr. Francis H. Allen has brought together a large number of selections from the works of Thoreau, Burroughs, Torrey, Bolles, Lowell, Hawthorne, Emerson, and others—in all 379 quotations from 14 well-known authors—one or more for each day of the year. Nearly two-thirds of the quotations are from Thoreau, and about one seventh from Burroughs. They relate primarily to birds and flowers, but many are general, or relate to the season rather than to any individual species of bird, beast, or plant. The work is not paged, and has no index. The quotations are printed on the left hand page, two days being allotted to each page, and the right hand page is a "Calendar of the arrival of birds and the first blooming of flowers." The locality to which most of the quotations refer is "the neighborhood of Boston. This will doubtless prove a welcome anthology to lovers of nature.—J. A. A.

**Baskett's 'The Story of the Birds.'**<sup>3</sup>—Mr. Baskett's 'Story of the Birds' does not pretend to tell the whole story but attempts "to present in a

<sup>1</sup> Proper name for the Western Horned Owl of North America. By Wither Stone. American Naturalist, March, 1897, p. 236.

<sup>2</sup>Nature's Diary | Compiled by | Francis H. Allen | "A minstrel of the natural year." | [Seal] Boston and New York | Houghton, Mifflin and Company | The Riverside Press, Cambridge | 1897 | — 12mo. pp. v + about 190ll., un-paged, with 8 photogravure pll.

<sup>3</sup>Appleton's Home Reading Books | — | The | Story of the Birds | By | James Newton Baskett, M. A. | Associate Member of the American Ornithologists' Union | [Vignette] New York | D. Appleton and Company | 1897—12mo, pp. xxx + 263. with 20 full-page illustrations and numerous cuts in the text.

rather unusual yet popular way the more striking features of their probable development." The chapter headings are too numerous to quote in full, but the following will give an idea of the style of treatment: I, A bird's forefathers; II, How did the birds first fly, perhaps? V, The cut of a bird's frock; VI, About a bird's underwear; VII, A bird's outer wrap; VIII, A bird's new suit; IX, 'Putting on Paints and Frills' among the birds; XI, War and weapons among birds; XIV, Freaks of bachelors and benedicts in feathers; XXIII, Tools and tasks among birds; XXV, A little talk on birds' toes; XXVIII, What a bird knows about geography and arithmetic; XXX, A bird's modern kinsfolk.

Mr. Baskett has treated the various topics relating to birds,—their structure, functions and various adaptations,—in a manner likely to interest the general reader, and for the most part has shown a creditable familiarity with his subject. He has, however, a predilection for hypothesis, and thinks every fact relating to habit or structure should be accounted for, and that even a poor theory is better than no theory at all. A good square admission that there are still some things we do not know is not to be tolerated. In the main, however, our author may be taken as a safe leader, and his little book should do much toward enlightening the general reader about birds and their relation to their surroundings. The last 20 pages consist of notes on birds as seen 'Through the Window Pane' of the author's study. The illustrations are largely from Chapman's 'Handbook of Birds of Eastern North America,' to which they are duly credited in the Publishers' Note.—J. A. A.

**Chapman's 'Bird-Life', Colored Edition.**—In the new edition of Chapman's 'Bird-Life' (see Auk, XIV, July 1897, pp. 336-339) the text has been revised, and the size of the book increased to a full octavo, and the plates enlarged and beautifully reproduced in colors, adding greatly to the value of the work as an aid to the identification of the 100 species thus figured. The publication of 'Bird-Life' in its present form thus well meets the demand for a popular work on our common birds, illustrated with colored plates, at a reasonable price.—J. A. A.

**Montgomery's List of the Birds of West Chester, Chester Co., Pa.**<sup>1</sup>—This is a carefully annotated list of 145 species observed in the immediate vicinity of West Chester, Chester County, Pennsylvania, during the years 1885-91, and 1895-97. Most of the observations were made within an area of only five miles' radius from West Chester, and no species is included in the list which was not either taken by the author or seen by him in the

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<sup>1</sup> A List of the Birds of the Vicinity of West Chester, Chester Co., Pennsylvania. By Thomas H. Montgomery, Jr., Ph. D. American Naturalist, 1897, pp. 622-628, 812-814, 907-911.